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KALA AZAR IN DALMATIA

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The first cases of kala azar in Dalmatia were confirmed clinically and parasitologically in 1930. The attention of physicians was at once drawn to this disease, and the task of checking on cases and conducting therapy and epidemiological tests fell to the Hygiene Institute in Split. About 248 cases have been confirmed in the province of Dalmatia since 1930, mainly in the districts of Split, Makarska, Korcula, Dubrovnik, Supetar, etc. Although most cases were found in the maritime part of Dalmatia, kala azar has also spread in the mountainous regions of the hinterland up to an altitude of several hundred meters.

Parasitological investigations have proved that in some cases the dog is a reservoir of Leishmania, for example, 8 percent of the dogs in some parts of Dalmatia were proven carriers. It was also established that such dogs may not display any clinical symptoms of infection. The species found in the province of Dalmatia are phlebotomus major, phlebotomus perniciosus, phlebotomus papatasi, phlebotomus Parroti, and Simiceva's new species. The determination of these species is proceeding systematically.

Considering the extent of kala azar and the propagation of phlebotomus, we regard phlebotomus major and phlebotomus perniciosus as the chief carriers of Leishmania donovani in Dalmatia. We consider that the dog is the most important factor in the epidemiology of kala azar, and we think it necessary that tests be performed at regular intervals in provinces where kala azar is endemic.

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